

**TAMPA, FLORIDA**  
**TAMPA YOUTH OPPORTUNITY**  
2000-2001 Grant Amount: **\$6 Million**

**Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA**  
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**Mission and Vision**

**Vision Statement**

All participants will have the opportunity, resources and encouragement to reach their full potential.

**Mission Statement**

To empower youth with the education and skills needed to gain meaningful employment.

**Program Overview**

The Tampa YO! goal is to utilize its resources to effectively serve eligible youth by increasing, as well as improving the quality of educational, training and employment opportunities for youth that reside in the EZ/EC target area. Youth Centers have been established by the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Urban League and CDC. All YO! Centers are located in the EZ/EC area and provide participants with a wide array of recreational, social and educational and job readiness activities. Target area youth who are in-school also receive specialized services from YDS=who ensure that all 40 schools (middle and high school) that enroll EZ/EC youth are served through YO!.

**Highlights and Innovative Practices**

- Model collaborative partnership between the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Urban League, CDC of Tampa, School District and Workforce Board. The key players have been working with each other since 1988, delivering comprehensive youth development activities.
- Active, involved and functioning WIA Youth Council (of which all Partners are members) laid the foundation for the YOG and a sustained collaborative effort to serve youth in the Hillsborough County/Tampa area.
- 5 permanent YO! Centers are open operated by the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Urban League (2) and CDC of Tampa.
- Effective school system partnership that places YDS's in schools teamed with Career Specialists in more than 15 high schools and 18 middle schools. YO! staff employed with school system provides overlay services such as assessment, remediation/tutoring, GED prep, technical and career education and job readiness.
- CDC of Tampa's Youth Entrepreneurship program operates 2 businesses (YO! Print Shop and Nehemiah Ice Cream Shop), YMCA delivers Urban Jr. Golf and Male Responsibility programs, Boys & Girls Youth Sports Program (Basketball League) and Urban League locating a YO! Center at a Community College.
- Highly successful Summer Academies included Fire & Rescue Camp (Firefighter I credential), University Community Hospital (CNA Certificate), Marriott Corp. and WEDU (Public TV).
- NeXstep Business Alliance mobilizing local business leaders to pledge jobs, supportive services such as job shadowing, internships and speakers with a commitment to sustaining the YO! Movement.

**Key Partners**

- ! Hillsborough County Workforce Board, Inc.
- ! YMCA

- ! *Boys and Girls Club*
- ! *Urban League*
- ! *Corporation to Develop Communities (CDC)*
- ! *Hillsborough County School System*
- ! *NeXstep (Busch, Marriot, GTE/Verizon, etc.)*

## **Youth Success Story**

Evelyn found out about YO! through her local Boys & Girls Club last fall. She enrolled in YO!, passed her GED, tested for clerk certification, starting working part-time for the YO! financial office (YMCA) and now works full-time for the YO! as an Administrative Assistant. She speaks at the orientations, advising youth about the opportunities available through the Tampa YO!.